

Kadhafi recruiting hundreds  
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Enjoy Aruba's  
57th carnival

Search party enters  
Aruba's jail... *pg 3*

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# THE MORNING NEWS

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## Aruba Police Force honors Mrs. Rosa Vrolijk For her remarkable work performance



Recently, Aruba Police Force gave recognition to one of its outstanding employees, Mrs. Rosa Vrolijk. Police High Commissioner Adolf Richardson as well as Police Deputy Mrs. Trudy Hassel elaborated on Mrs. Vrolijk's career.

Mrs. Vrolijk started working with the Police Force as cleaning lady. She then took a course and was promoted to telephone operator and afterwards to Central Station Department employee. At present she works at the Beach Police office at Palm Beach.

Mrs. Vrolijk stands out for her dedication. Although she had some health problems she always fought to progress in life and performed her work the best she can.

During a small ceremony on her behalf, the Aruba Police Force handed her a plaque honouring her for her remarkable work performance.

Photos show Mrs. Vrolijk, in center, surrounded by her colleagues and Mrs. Vrolijk proudly showing off her plaque.

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**TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC**

## Kadhafi recruiting hundreds of Tuareg fighters



**Tuareg Warriors**

BAMAKO, Mali (AFP) - Hundreds of young Tuareg from Mali and Niger, including former rebels, are being recruited by embattled Libyan leader Moamer Kadhafi to fight off a popular uprising, officials in northern Mali said.

"We are worried in many respects," said Abdou Salam Ag Assalat, president of the Regional Assembly of Kidal.

These young people "are going in masses (to Libya). It's very dangerous for us because whether Kadhafi resists or he falls, there will be an impact for our region."

He said regional authorities "are trying to dissuade them" from leaving, particularly ex-rebels, but that it was not easy as there were "dollars and weapons" waiting for them.

Assalat said an entire network was in place to organise the trip to Libya.

"Kadhafi's reach stretches to us. He knows who to call, they make group trips. There seems to be an air link from Chad. Others go by road to southern Libya."

"All of that scares me, really, because one day they will come back with the same arms to destabilise the Sahel," said Assalat, adding that "a former Malian Tuareg rebel leader is also in Libya", but did not mention his name.

The mayor of Kidal, Arbacane Ag Bazayak, shared the same concern: "What will they do next? Come back with the same weapons. It is a danger for the entire sub-region."

The Tuareg, a nomadic community of about 1.5 million people are divided between Niger, Mali, Algeria, Libya and Burkina Faso. In the 1990s and 2000 Mali and Niger were plagued by Tuareg rebellions.

reg rebellions.

Witnesses report the presence of sub-Saharan African citizens in Libya, who are being used as mercenaries by pro-Kadhafi forces.

But for those from south of the Sahara who have been stranded in Libya as the revolt spreads, life is growing increasingly desperate.

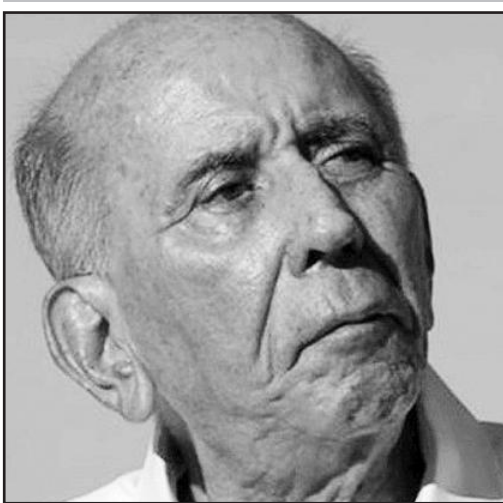
Yesterday, 122 Malians who were working in a Chinese factory in Tiji, south east of Tripoli, arrived back in Bamako with assistance from the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

It was in Tunisia that they were put on a special plane to Bamako.

An official with the IOM in Bamako told AFP the organization would cover the cost of the return of the Malians.

Senegal announced it would repatriate nearly 500 of its nationals trying to escape the violence that has swept the North African country.

## Ex-Venezuelan president to be entombed in US



MIAMI, Florida (AFP) - A US judge ordered former Venezuelan president Carlos Andres Perez be interred in Miami after a two-month legal battle over his remains.

The order came from state judge Arthur Rothenberg, who had attempted to negotiate a settlement in the case brought by Perez's first wife seeking the remains to be sent back to Venezuela.

"The solution is... to entomb the earthly remains of Mr. Perez in a decent and dignified manner in Miami-

Dade County, Florida," the judge said in an order ahead of a full trial in the case.

He added that this would allow the transfer to Venezuela of the remains in case the decision is reversed.

Perez's final resting place "will be decided by this court in

due course, in a renewed and expanded time frame in which the issues can be fully explored by the parties and presented in a tranquil environment, free of haste which so often results in error," the judge wrote.

Perez's longtime companion in Miami had argued that he wanted his remains kept in the United States.

Perez died December 25 at age 88.

The family of Perez's first wife Blanca Rodriguez and their six children sought to have the remains repatriated.

But his longtime companion Cecilia Matos and their two daughters vowed to respect what they insist was Perez's wish to return to Venezuela only when full democracy, in his view, was restored.

The former leader was a fierce critic of current Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, whom he described as "Satan."

He had been living in Miami with Matos and their daughters Maria Francia and Cecilia Victoria since 1999 to avoid an arrest warrant from the Venezuelan government for his role in violent riots a decade earlier known as the "Caracazo" that left at least 276 people dead.



**Bolivia's Social Defence deputy minister Felipe Caceres said Bolivia will cooperate with the United States in the case of a drug trafficking organization led by former Bolivian anti-drug czar and present chief of intelligence of the Interior Ministry, police general Rene Sanabria seen here), arrested in Panama one week ago and sent to the United States to face charges.**

(AFP PHOTO)

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**Ingrid Does**  
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**Rosalie Klein**  
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P.R., Sales & Marketing

**Yanis Garcia**  
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Sales

**News Provider:**  
AFP-Agence France Presse

**Caya G. F. Betico Croes 111**  
Tel: 588-9517 - Fax: 588-9518

E-mail:  
themorningnewsaruba@gmail.com

Website:  
www.themorningnewsaruba.com





## Announcement

Due to a meeting for our associates our offices will be closed earlier on Thursday march 3:

AZV San Nicolas at 12 o'clock.  
AZV Rumbastraat 21 at 2 o'clock.

Our apologies for any inconvenience.

Rumbastraat 21, Oranjestad info@uoazv.aw www.azv.aw



## Bonairean Government official continues his plight

To reduce airport tax even more



Tourism Deputy of Bonaire, Mr. Tjin Ashoe, recently visited Aruba and continued his efforts to plead for an even greater reduction of the airport tax than the reduction to \$20 dollars enacted this past February 1st.

In the past the Bonaire government decided to eliminate the residence tax for all inhabitants of the Antillean islands and Aruba. This was in an effort to promote travel between the Antilles and Aruba and also to strengthen the family ties between our islands.

The government of Aruba just recently reduced the airport tax for travel to Bonaire to \$20 dollars. Although the Bonairean dignitary is pleased with Aruba's reduction of the tax, he is making every effort

to convince our dignitaries to reduce the tax even more.

Hence, in the ensuing days, diplomatic conversations will continue with those responsible.

Tourism Deputy, Tjin Asjoe, is convinced that an additional reduction of the airport tax between Aruba and Bonaire will stimulate a greater amount of traffic of people between the islands. Not only will this strengthen our family ties, but also promote our athletics, culture and activities like the Rincon Day, Bonaire Jazz Festival and the Regatta.

Tjin Asjoe reiterated that, as Deputy of Economics and of Tourism that this is how we can contribute to our community and to the promotion of our island.

## Mixplay T.v. on Channel 65 of SETAR Cable T.V.



ORANJESTAD -- Aruba's telecommunication company, SETAR N.V., announces to all its subscribers that as of yesterday, March 1, Cable Digital Movietraaxx on Channel 65 will change for Mixplay T.v.

Digital Latin America (DLA) - purveyor for integrated digital content for Latin America and the Caribbean - is the operator that provides these types of channels. SETAR, as part of its standing policy to improve its product and service, now offers this new channel Mixplay T.v.

Mixplay.Tv is an English channel with Spanish subtitles.

It has a multi-platform directed to the Internet generation, which views technology as part of everyday life. The channel is based on the strategy of 360 that enables subscribers to interact via linear television, Video On Demand, Internet and mobile.

Mixplay.Tv stands out for its extreme content variety, offering music, animation, video games, lifestyle and peeks behind the camera. The musical selection consists of a portfolio with more than 500 hours of international, alternative, Latin American, urban, hits of the United Kingdom, reggaeton,

and much more from which to choose.

Some of the innovative programs of this channel are:

- Pop Culture: one hour of Hollywood news and coverage of international stars
- Star Profiles: an 8-minute program that highlights the artist of your preference
- Artist Hour: an hour dedicated to your preferred group or singer
- Millennium: Most popular musical hits of the last decade (2000-2009)
- Game Faqs.TV: a 30-minutes show with questions and answers about video games.

## Search party enters Aruba's jail, conducts clean sweep



Recently, in cooperation with Prison authorities and the Police Force, the Office of Public Justice entered the Jail (KIA) to conduct a massive search in one of the wings of the jail. The reason for this coordinated action was because of an incident, which occurred last Sunday, when 8 prisoners climbed up on top of the roof and caused quite a stir.

The search lasted several hours. During the search action prisoners were stood up and searched. Prison guards were also submitted to the search action, they were all body

searched. The search party looked for cellular phones, drugs, firearms and other objects that could be used as weapons. The action produced a cell phone, a small quantity of Marihuana, two knives and a host of objects that were either filed sharp or manipulated to be used as weapons. All prison guards were clean. The prison wing that was searched has over 40 prison cells. The cell phone, drugs and firearms found were in the possession of prisoners.

The Office of Public Justice is pleased with the way the

search action was conducted and with the cooperation of the KIA staff. It is their intention to conduct similar searches on a fairly regular basis in an effort to maintain the security of prisoners and prison guards.

The justice officials are committed to fulfilling their responsibility to keep Aruba safe and any indication of threats due to the presence of firearms or other manmade weaponry which could be used in the prison will be removed in order to ensure the continued safety in our prison system.



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## Aruba organizes first Lionfish Derby and Cookout



**Lionfish Tool**

On March 19, 2011 Aruba will host its first Lionfish Derby to reduce the population of this invasive species and at the same time acquaint seafood lovers with the fact that it is considered a delicacy.

The event is to stimulate interest in controlling the rapid propagation of Lionfish within Aruba waters; with no know predators and a voracious appetite, Lionfish can quickly decimate the delicate balance of the reef environment.

Teams who register will sail out on Saturday, March 19, to catch as many Lionfish as possible.

There will be three cash prizes awarded:

1. Most Lion Fish caught by a group: Afls. 250
1. Biggest Lion Fish by length: Afls. 250
2. Most Lion Fish by an individual: Afls. 250

The most interesting and

exciting part of this tournament will be afterwards, when the Lionfish will be grilled at Hadicuari Restaurant for all those present, so they may taste this delicacy. Lionfish are fine eating; so with our appetites we can also help control its invasion of our waters.

During the tournament there will be tents offering mouth-watering seafood and other dishes, ice cold refreshments and activities to make the event a tremendous family day.

Since the first reported sighting in Aruba's waters of lionfish, the interest of divers, tour operators and fishermen to participate in such a tournament has grown. Videos on [facebook.com/hadicurari](http://facebook.com/hadicurari) show how easy it is to fillet this excellent food fish.

Important Notice: spear guns, slingshots and harpoons are prohibited by law and can-

not be used to catch the fish. Extreme measures are not necessary. A simple homemade iron hook and bait tied with rope is enough to catch lionfish as they are slow moving and have no fear of predators; they will eat anything and everything in their path. Because of this, if left unchecked, they pose a severe threat to our coral reef, ecosystems, tourism and fisheries of the region, in general.

As a top predator, it consumes juvenile snapper and grouper along with algae-eating parrotfish. This can have a negative effect for our reefs, fishermen, restaurants and our economy. The largest of lionfish can grow to about 15 inches (0.4 meters) in length, but the average is closer to 1 foot (0.3 meters). It also has a high reproductive rate.

The Lion fish is venomous and its spines (dorsal, anal and ventral) which can cause injury to humans with severe pain. The fish must be handled with special care, however, it is NOT poisonous, and so it is quite safe to eat. If stung, immerse the wound in hot water, which breaks down the venom, and seek medical attention. Once the spines are removed



the fish is harmless and can be handled without any risk.

Organizers ask that even those not participating unite to control the lionfish population. When dining at seafood restaurants request lionfish and inquire why they don't have it on the menu. When SCUBA diving or snorkeling, if a lionfish is spotted, help eliminate it from our waters by catching or culling it if possible and properly equipped or PLEASE report it to the authorities; in this way, you are helping to preserve our reefs.

Hadicuari Center cordially invites all fishermen, divers, watersports companies and the general public to register for

the Lionfish Derby. The center has scheduled a general meeting for captains and boat owners On March Friday 11. Information for all fisherman and boat owners is continually provided on [facebook.com/hadicurari](http://facebook.com/hadicurari) regarding meteorological advisories and security at sea.

Those interested in registering for the derby are requested to contact:

**Mr. Francisco Franken**  
**Centro di Pesca Hadicuari,**  
**Berea di Piscado 1, tel. 586-6610 or**  
**Mr. Byron Boekhoudt,**  
**Centro di Pesca Hadicuari,**  
**Berea di Piscado 1, tel. 586-0820**



## Sci-Tech

## Perfect make-up every time, thanks to your computer



HANOVER, Germany (AFP) – Every woman's dream is to have her own personal make-up artist. That dream could soon be a reality with a computer that scans your face and suggests the perfect personalised make-up combination.

The technology, showcased at CeBIT, the world's biggest high-tech fair, takes a 3D image of your face and measures your complexion, shadows and lines.

Specially designed computer software then matches your face to 60 pre-programmed models and advises how much make-up should be applied to which parts of your face based on profes-

sional make-overs conducted on the models.

The computer can also tell you if your tried-and-tested make-up combinations are actually right for your face, explained Kristina Scherbaum, who developed the programme at the prestigious Max Planck Institute.

"We also take into consideration certain personal facial characteristics, like freckles or moles. Furthermore, we can determine whether or not already existing make-up on a woman suits her face," she added.

The software, currently only available for women, is at the research stage at the moment but could easily be adapted for commercial use, said Himangsho Saikia, who designed the interface system.

"Professional make-up is expensive but with this, you could turn on your computer in the morning, use a webcam and have your make-up done for you," he said.

The system can also be modified to provide cosmetics advice in different situations, such as jazzy make-up for an evening party or more sober for work.

CeBIT is showcasing the

latest technology and gadgets from some 4,200 exhibitors and hopes to attract around 350,000 visitors. It runs until March 5.

## US names Baidu, PirateBay on copyright piracy list

WASHINGTON (AFP) – The US on Monday named leading Chinese search engine Baidu and Swedish torrent download site Pirate Bay in a list of the world's top marketplaces for pirated and counterfeit goods.

The US Trade Representative's office said the two websites, a host of others and more than 20 shopping districts such as the Silk Market in Beijing and Pantip Plaza in Bangkok were "notorious" centers openly selling or enabling the sale of counterfeit or pirated goods, from software to industrial products to live sports television broadcasts.

While no action was threatened in the USTR's first global "Review of Notorious Markets", it said the offenders were targets for copyright enforcement efforts and could be singled out in indi-

vidual country reports.

"The United States urges the responsible authorities to intensify efforts to combat piracy and counterfeiting in these and similar markets," it said.

While the markets named spanned the globe -- shopping districts in South America to Southeast Asia were included, as were websites in a number of countries -- Chinese offenders were the most numerous on the list.

It said that Baidu -- number six on a worldwide list of top websites compiled by web surveyor Alexa Internet -- was enabling piracy with "deep linking" searches.

Such searches could take a user directly to a page for a pirated download rather than to the website's home page.

Kaiser Kuo, spokesman for Baidu, which has seen its market share increase steadily since Google effec-

tively shut down its Chinese search engine in March last year, declined comment on the report when contacted by AFP.

Also named were China's largest retail website Taobao, sports telecast rebroadcaster TV Ants, smartphone applications host 91.com; markets in Yiwu, Shenzhen and Beijing; and popular computer shopping areas like Hailong PC Mall in Beijing and Shanghai's Yangpu Yigao Digital Square.

The USTR said that Taobao had moved to curb pirated and copyright-infringing goods on its site, but "still has a long way to go in order to resolve those problems."

A spokesman for Alibaba Group, which owns Taobao, said the company would "continue to work closely with brand owners and others to further enhance the level of trust and integrity in our online marketplaces".

"We appreciate the USTR's acknowledgment of our ongoing efforts to work with brand owners in protecting their intellectual property rights," the spokesman, John Spelich, told AFP.

A slew of BitTorrent sites -- which permit speedy downloads of large files like music, videos and books -- were named, including The Pirate Bay, IsoHunt of Canada, Russia-based Rutracker, Ukraine's Dementoid, and Publicbt.

Russia-based social networking site V Kontakte was cited for permitting users "to provide access to allegedly infringing materials."

The list of markets included sites in Mexico City, Buenos Aires, New Delhi, Kiev, Jakarta, Hong Kong and Manila.

It said the entire economy of Ciudad del Este in Paraguay "is based in part on the trafficking of counterfeit and infringing goods, with a particular emphasis on electronic goods."

"This activity spills over into the entire Tri-Border Region of Paraguay, Argentina and Brazil, creating a hotbed

## Window-shopping in the future at giant tech fair



HANOVER, Germany (AFP) – Always window-shopping but never stopping to buy? In the future you can do both with new technology allowing you to point through the window at items and buy them with a swish of your hand.

The technology, already making a splash at the CeBIT, the world's biggest high-tech fair, uses a series of infrared cameras that register the movements of your hand and instantly transmit them to a large screen in the shop window.

The shopper stands about a metre (yard) away from the glass and simply points to the

desired dress, hat, bag or shoes.

Instantly a new menu appears showing the item in 3D, along with crucial retail information such as the sizes available, colours -- and of course, price.

With another brief wave of the hand, the user can rotate the item in 3D, change the colour and scroll through similar products.

If the punter decides to take the plunge, he or she points at the "checkout" icon and pays by placing a smartphone against the glass.

"It's secure, easy and of course 24/7," said Paul Chojeki, project manager at Ger-

many's Fraunhofer Institute, which developed the technology.

One of the main advantages over touch screen technology is that the user does not need to input personal data that could be visible to passers-by, he said, predicting it would soon become everyday practice.

"It's the same as with touch screens," he said. "At first, everyone thought it was strange, now everyone does it."

Another advantage of this system over touch screen technology is that it is much more hygienic as there is no contact with the glass.

Chojeki said you could be buying things with your finger sooner than you might think. "I would say in two years, this technology will be fairly widespread. A few big stores have already expressed an interest."

The first prototypes will likely be coming to a store near you this year, he added.

"It's really a revolution for window-shopping."

## Astronauts install Italian-built module at space lab

WASHINGTON (AFP) – Astronauts at the orbiting International Space Station on Tuesday installed a permanent Italian-built storage module, while Russia nixed plans to fly around and take pictures of the crowded lab.

The flyabout by Russia's Soyuz capsule would have provided new camera angles on the ISS as well as an unusual group photo of all the five participating nations' vehicles and equipment together for the first time.

Japan's HTV craft, the European ATV supply ship, Russia's Soyuz and Progress space capsules and the American space shuttle Discovery are all docked at the ISS, and Canada's Dextre robot is up and running there, too.

"It was kind of a late proposal that we do this," largely because the US shuttle was delayed from its initial November launch plan due to technical problems, said NASA spokesman John Ira Petty.



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## First-aid kits:

### Stock supplies that can save lives.

A well-stocked first-aid kit can help you respond effectively to common injuries and emergencies.

You can purchase first-aid kits at many drugstores or assemble your own. Contents of a first-aid kit should include:

#### Basic supplies

- Adhesive tape
- Antibiotic ointment
- Antiseptic solution or towelettes
- Bandages, including a roll of elastic wrap (Ace, Coban, others) and bandage strips (Band-Aid, Curad, others) in assorted sizes
- Instant cold packs
- Cotton balls and cotton-tipped swabs
- Disposable latex or synthetic gloves, at least two pairs
- Duct tape
- Gauze pads and roller gauze in assorted sizes
- Eye goggles
- First-aid manual
- Petroleum jelly or other lubricant
- Plastic bags for the disposal of contaminated materials
- Safety pins in assorted sizes
- EMT Tooth Saver or Save-A-Tooth storage device containing salt solution and a travel case
- Scissors, tweezers and a needle
- Soap or instant hand sanitizer
- Sterile eyewash, such as a saline solution
- Thermometer
- Triangular bandage
- Turkey baster or other bulb suction device for flushing out wounds

#### Medications

- Activated charcoal (use only if instructed by your poison control center)
- Aloe vera gel
- Anti-diarrhea medication
- Over-the-counter oral antihistamine (Benadryl, others)
- Aspirin and nonaspirin pain relievers (never give aspirin to children)
- Calamine lotion
- Over-the-counter hydrocortisone cream
- Personal medications that don't need refrigeration
- If prescribed by your doctor, drugs to treat an allergic attack, such as an auto-injector of (EpiPen)
- Syringe, medicine cup or spoon

#### Emergency items

- Cell phone and recharger that uses the accessory plug in your car dash
- Emergency phone numbers, including contact information for your family doctor and pediatrician, local emergency services, emergency road service providers and the regional poison control center
- Medical consent forms for each family member
- Medical history forms for each family member
- Small, waterproof flashlight and extra batteries
- Candles and matches for cold climates
- Sunscreen
- Mylar emergency blanket
- First-aid instruction manual

#### Give your kit a checkup

Check your first-aid kits regularly, at least every three months, to be sure the flashlight batteries work and to replace supplies that have expired.

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## Health & Living

### Surge in births after deadly New Zealand quake

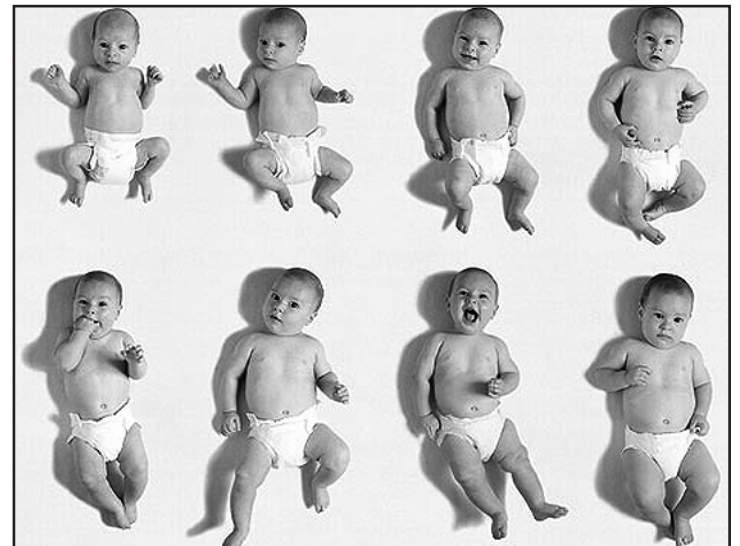
CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand (AFP) – As many as 240 people likely died in New Zealand's devastating earthquake, but health services have also been stretched coping with a different problem -- a surge in new life.

Canterbury district health director David Meates said there had been a "real pressure" to deal with births after last week's 6.3-magnitude tremor, and that premature babies packed out Christchurch Hospital's neonatal unit.

"Earthquakes do tend to hurry things along for those intending to deliver," said Meates of the surge in births, which saw some 76 maternity patients hospitalised in the days after the February 22 quake.

So many births followed the deadly jolt that some babies had to be transferred to North Island hospitals while Christchurch Hospital put out a call for extra midwives from across the country.

An even greater spike was seen after last September's 7.0-level tremor, when 21 babies were born at the hospital in the following 24 hours, a record



number.

"It's just one of those things. You could blame it on the full moon or the high tide. I think anecdotally people go into survival mode," Canterbury midwifery director Samantha Burke told local media.

Christchurch woman Jo Blackman visited her midwife just hours before the earthquake and was told not to expect her baby for a few more days. When the tremor struck, all she could think about was rushing through her shuddering

house to reach her two-year-old son, Josh.

"I didn't even think about the pregnancy -- I just wanted to get to Josh," Blackman, 34, told Fairfax newspapers. "Then when my husband got back and we were looking at a few cracks in the house I suddenly felt my contractions."

Baby Alyssa was born at 7:30 pm as frantic searches continued for survivors in central Christchurch and as hundreds of injured people were tended on surrounding floors.

### Michelle Obama gets a Republican boost on obesity



#### Michelle Obama Anti-Obesity Campaign Controversy Continues.

WASHINGTON (AFP) – Two prominent Republicans came to the defense of First Lady Michelle Obama, breaking ranks with some of their party's top stars who have taken jabs at her campaign against obesity.

Mike Huckabee, a formerly overweight talk show host who is a possible presidential contender, took issue with conservative critics who say the first

lady is unduly involving the government in personal and family decision-making.

The critics include Sarah Palin, Minnesota lawmaker and Tea Party champion Michele Bachmann, and radio commentator Rush Limbaugh.

"I didn't say they're all wrong," Huckabee said on Fox News. "I'm just simply saying that what Michelle Obama is proposing is not that the government tells you that you can't eat dessert."

"What Michelle Obama has proposed is that we recognize that we have a serious obesity crisis, which we do," said Huckabee, who calls himself a "recovering foodaholic" who once weighed 135k (300 lbs).

The former Arkansas governor pointed out that 75 percent of military age youths in the United States do not qual-

ify for military service "because they're either overweight or obese and can't meet the minimum army standards."

New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, who has called himself portly, also distanced himself from conservatives critical of the first lady's efforts to encourage young Americans to stay fit and eat healthy foods.

"I think it's a really good goal to encourage kids to eat better," Christie stressed.

"I've struggled with my weight for 30 years. And it's a struggle," he added.

While "I don't want the government deciding what you can and what you can't eat. ... I think Mrs. Obama being out there encouraging people in a positive way to eat well and to exercise and to be healthy, I don't have a problem with that," Christie added.

Childhood obesity in the United States has tripled in 30 years.





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In this unknown world you require to travel to other destinations in order to improve your knowledge about this country and meet new friends. Nowadays, with internet you can accomplish that but you would not be satisfied because there is no real interaction. As a result of this, new generations are becoming addicted to internet rather than enjoy the nature.

On the other hand, when scuba diving, it won't be necessary to catch a plane for 10 hours to meet someone. In fact, you will need to go diving to meet different individuals which will become friends for life or even family if love is involved. For instance, families become united and aware of their needs when diving in a group. There is no other sport that protects the marine environment, make new friends and goes underwater.

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Most fishermen's when go fishing have seen beautiful creatures called Manta rays. Mantas breach the surface and launch into the air. It seems that a few of them are hanging in the reef which is a delight for divers to dive with.

Research has shown that they had been spotted in Antilla wreck and Sponge reef

with bit of luck you may be able to see them but you will need to be in the water at the right time.

In addition, hope you try scuba diving and see what Aruba is all about.

Enjoy this fantastic carnivals season and get into the underwater world this weekend!

By Gino Giannone  
Open Water Scuba Instructor  
Underwater Photographer  
and Videographer  
[Godiving2011@hotmail.com](mailto:Godiving2011@hotmail.com)

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## Nos Cunucu - The Land Farm project donates its harvest



The horticultural project "Green House" style established on Aruba is bearing its first fruits. It was introduced a few years back and now, after much work, the "Greenhouses" are producing their first harvest; salad cucumbers.

Representatives of the participating companies donated the harvest to a number of important entities, among them, Dr. Horacio Oduber Hospital, Meals on Wheels and the homes for senior citizens: Maristella, SABA and St. Michael Pavilion. The cucumbers were planted on Aruban soil and watered with ground water.

A well known saying states "There is no better vegetable as the one you cultivate in your own country." The cucumbers are thick and with substantial sweet flesh. The project coordinators are already taking orders from supermarkets, restaurants and businesses. The plan is to soon start cultivating tomatoes, melons and other vegetables plus fruits which are particular favorites among our people. Little by little, we will have an abundance of our own fruits and vegetables cultivated locally, at affordable prices.

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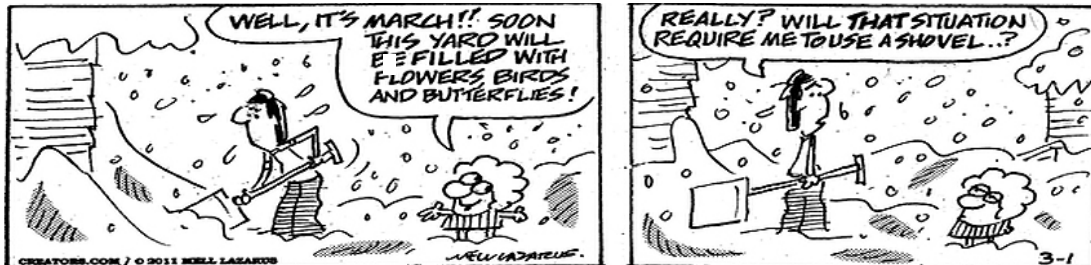
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Courtesy of PLANTERS

## CALVIN and HOBBS



## CROSSWORD

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## ACROSS

1. Baseball transaction  
6. Groom's party  
10. School subj.

14. Sultan's wives  
15. Tall or fairy  
16. Gumbo  
17. Hit the deck  
18. Disney's forte

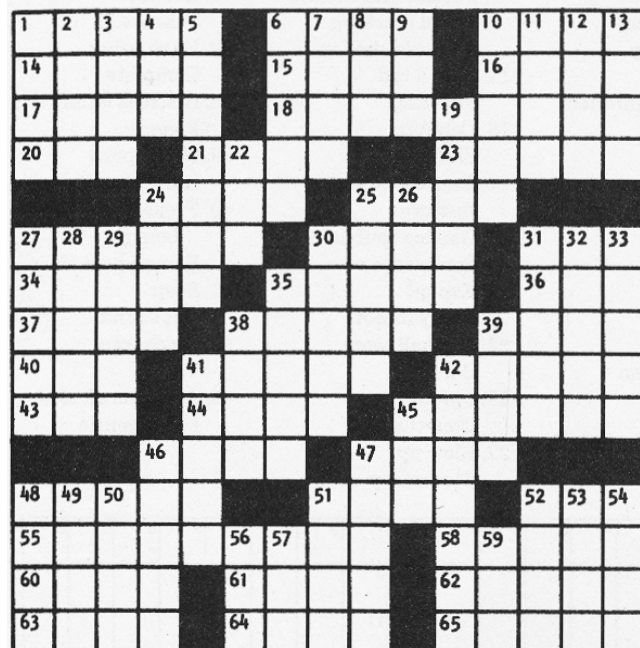
20. Afternoon party  
21. From \_\_\_ to riches  
23. Gives temporarily  
24. Close-out  
25. Remove rind  
27. Pierce  
30. In the neighborhood  
31. Commercials

34. "The \_\_\_ of Music"  
35. Shore  
36. Energy  
37. Knowledge  
38. Piece of bread  
39. \_\_\_ cabinet  
40. Naval officer: abbr.  
41. Aspect  
42. Spartacus, e.g.  
43. Direction: abbr.  
44. \_\_\_ duck  
45. Made amends  
46. Summer vacation spot  
47. Direct insult  
48. Plains animal  
51. Prepare a prescription  
52. One of the Waltons  
55. Begged  
58. Go  
60. Ballplayer  
61. Dry  
62. Heron  
63. British conservative  
64. Ball-point and fountain  
65. Energetic people

## DOWN

1. "All \_\_\_ Jazz"  
2. Meat order  
3. Diva's solo  
4. \_\_\_ Moines  
5. Oz jewel  
6. Theater platform

7. Baskers' goals  
8. \_\_\_ Baba  
9. Ruby, for one  
10. Tourist court  
11. Related  
12. Walked on  
13. \_\_\_ Christian Andersen  
19. Wide-awake  
22. Pub beverage  
24. Mentally sound  
25. "War and \_\_\_"  
26. Relaxation  
27. Wight and Man  
28. Satellites  
29. Pucker  
30. Racket  
31. Relating to bees  
32. Search (into)  
33. Racer's concern  
35. Vise  
38. Bogus  
39. Complete failure  
41. \_\_\_ geometry  
42. Played for time  
45. Every last one  
46. Sentimental  
47. Flanks  
48. Finest  
49. Division preposition  
50. Nova, e.g.  
51. House plant  
52. Unadorned  
53. Always  
54. Makes as a profit  
56. Snake  
57. Golf mound  
59. Conceit



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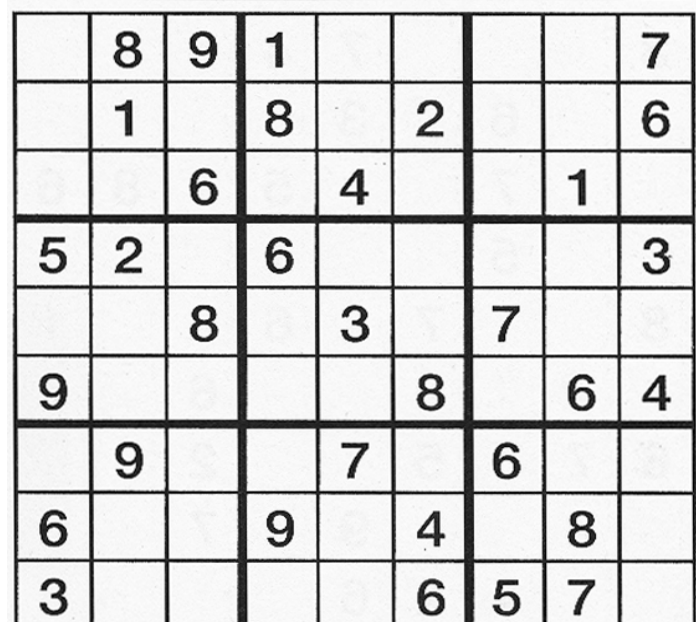
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SOLUTION

6	2	9	9	8	2	1	7	8
1	8	5	7	9	6	2	4	9
2	7	9	1	2	5	9	6	8
7	9	1	8	2	9	2	5	6
9	2	2	6	5	7	8	9	1
5	6	8	2	1	9	7	2	9
8	1	6	5	7	2	9	9	2
9	9	7	2	6	8	5	1	2
2	5	2	9	9	1	6	8	7

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9. A number is Never repeated in a row or column. In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9





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## Finance

### BRIEFS:

#### US central bank chief optimistic about jobs:

WASHINGTON (AFP) – There are "grounds for optimism" that the ailing US jobs market will pick up this year, Federal Reserve chairman Ben Bernanke told Congress. Sounding an upbeat tone amid high levels of unemployment, Bernanke said positive data in December and January could auger well for the next few quarters. He cited a drop in unemployment over the last two months as well as figures showing fewer Americans have claimed jobless benefits over the past few weeks, and "an improvement in firms' hiring plans." His comments likely will boost hopes that February unemployment figures, which will be released, could be better than expected.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Eurozone ups growth forecast:

BRUSSELS (AFP) – The European Commission raised its eurozone growth forecast to 1.6 percent for 2011, but warned that markets remain fragile and unrest in the Arab world threatens to drive up inflation. The European Union's executive arm, which last November had forecast 2011 growth of 1.5 percent, said the improved outlook was supported by "better prospects for the global economy and upbeat EU business sentiment." But the recovery is expected to remain uneven among the 17 nations that share the euro, with the export-driven German economy leading the pack while debt-stricken southern countries lag behind as they slash spending.

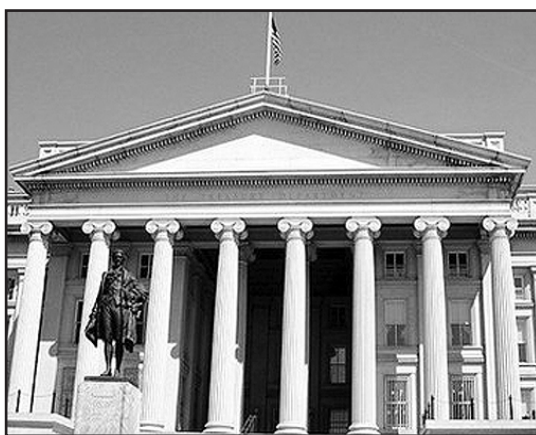
\*\*\*\*\*

#### Barclays buys Citigroup's Egg credit card division:

LONDON (AFP) – Barclays bank said that it has agreed to buy the Egg credit card division from US banking giant Citigroup for an undisclosed amount. "Barclays Bank Plc has agreed to acquire Egg's UK credit card assets," the lender said in a statement. "Under the terms of the transaction, Barclays will purchase Egg's UK credit card accounts, consisting of approximately 1.15 million credit card accounts with approximately £2.3 billion of gross receivables." The deal is expected to be completed in the first half of the year, subject to regulatory approvals. Egg will then be integrated with the group's own credit card division, Barclaycard.

\*\*\*\*\*

## US Treasury to sell \$2.7 bn in Ally Financial shares



WASHINGTON (AFP) – The US Treasury Department said it is putting up for sale about \$2.7 billion in shares of bailed-out Ally Financial, the former financing arm of rescued auto giant General Motors. It represents the first dis-

posal of government assets in the rescue of GM's GMAC, a provider of financing to auto customers which expanded to include insurance, on-line banking, mortgage operations and commercial finance. Hit hard in the financial crisis, sparked by a collapse of the home loan industry, GMAC was bailed out by the government, receiving \$16.3 billion in taxpayer-funded aid in installments beginning in December 2008. It was re-

named Ally Financial in 2010.

The offering of Ally preferred shares is being led by Citigroup, Deutsche Bank, JP Morgan and Morgan Stanley, the Treasury said in a statement. It did not say when the sale would take place.

"All proceeds raised from this first sale would represent a partial recovery on Treasury's investment in Ally," the department said.

The Treasury said the sale would leave unchanged its 74 percent holding of Ally common shares.

Ally is expected to make an initial public offering on the stock market of its common shares, valued last December at an estimated \$23 billion, but has not yet released a date.



SHANGHAI, China : A Chinese butcher shows a piece of meat to a customer at a market in Shanghai. Manufacturing activity in China fell to a seven-month low in February as overseas orders weakened, but rising cost pressures added to inflationary concerns, an independent survey showed.

AFP PHOTO

### YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

TRADE	STAG	MATH
HAREM	TALE	OKRA
ARISE	ANIMATION	
TEA	RAGS	LENDIS
SALE	PEEL	
IMPALE	NEAR	ADS
SOUND	COAST	PEP
LORE	SLICE	FILE
ENS	PHASE	SLAVE
SSE	LAME	ATONED
CAMP	SLAP	
BISON	FILL	BEN
ENTREATED	LEAVE	
STAN	SERE	EGRET
TORY	PENS	DOERS

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## Gold Coast Aruba: Great savings for large families on holiday rentals



Aruba's newest and most innovative gated community has enjoyed steady sales since breaking ground, as many are finding the secure surroundings and outstanding amenities are just what they were looking for before considering purchasing property on the island. Some owners are using the villas or town homes as vacation retreats rather than full time and are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," noted Gold Coast developer Fito Croes. To assist in the demand for more complete facilities for groups and families, famed hotelier Ed Malone has been placed in charge of the rental program.

Staying at Gold Coast is a very attractive proposition for those traveling with groups that would require multiple hotel rooms. Two and three bedroom Villas or Town Homes accommodate large numbers and offer extensive amenities along with a final cost resulting in considerable savings. The community is minutes to the best beaches and all the casino action, and offers a quiet and secluded getaway with two swimming pools and specialized services with more on the way, such as a fitness room, tennis courts and mini-mall. Ed can arrange maid service, babysitters,

caterers, airline pick-up and drop-off; they even boast a shopping service to stock your shelves before arrival.

Gold Coast accommodations are elegant and spacious, offering privacy for

homes come with cable TV, high-speed fiber-optic Internet connection, individual washer/dryer, and are fully air-conditioned. Cribs, high chairs and hair dryers are available for a modest fee.



parents or a few couples. Beautifully appointed kitchens and bathrooms grace each abode; barbecues and lounges are provided for friendly cookouts and truly savoring the island life. All

Concierge services to arrange rental cars, spa appointments, activities and restaurant reservations are all part of the package.

Check-in for your holiday escape is conducted in the comfort of your vacation home, not while waiting on line at check-in desk. In every way, Gold Coast seeks to pamper their guests while providing them with the feeling of being in a cozy community, not the normally bustling resort, particularly experienced during the major holidays. If you wish an optimal vacation experience with great savings, visit their website: [www.goldcoastaruba.com](http://www.goldcoastaruba.com) to get acquainted with the community and the layout, details and availability of accommodations, or call 586-2200 to talk personally to a Gold Coast representative.



## The Queen's offers an authentic taste of Aruba!



Varella, Luisa and the next generation of chef

One of the distinctions of Aruban cuisine is incorporating unique indigenous ingredients such as in Wild Cucumber Stew and a particular light fish chowder accompanied by the local specialties pan bati (corn meal pancake) and funchi (the local version of polenta.) Thus, eating out at the authentically Aruban restaurant, The Queen's, is very affordable, with a true taste of regional cuisine.

Owner Varella Innocencia confesses she opened her

into local cuisine. "We will definitely return to The Queen's," they affirmed, "the food was delicious and the prices are more than right."

The menu sports a variety of steaks and tenderloin, fresh caught seafood, Caribbean lobster, and of course, one of our favorites, and what we consider a true test of local cuisine, "Keshi Yena"- "Filled Cheese." This is a tasty, filling stew of chicken, with other ingredients that are handy that day, all incased in a thick skin



Keshi Yena with plantains and vegetables

restaurant in Oranjestad because "I grew up with this, and loved serving people our island food. My father and mother operated the little restaurant across from the Americana, which some may remember, the original Arawak. I remember how much our customers loved trying the local food, and they especially loved the prices!"

Varella's mom, Luisa, is still in the kitchen, conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generations, which is acknowledged on the menu with "Carni Stoba di Mamachi"- "Grandma's Beef Stew," and their Arawak Steak.

We also bumped into island visitors Jim and Callie from Michigan, who were eager to try island food, and were more than pleased with their venture

of melted Gouda. It was very satisfying and particularly memorable paired with The Queen's garlic bread and very special Pica, a mix of chopped onions and the famous local hot pepper, Madame Janette. Not overly spicy, it lent that perfect bit of tang to this deliciously picturesque meal.

Located next to the Harbor at the end of the Weststraat, The Queen's is open from 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., daily, offering indoor and outdoor dining. They also have daily specials, aside from an extensive menu; made from whatever is in season.

We noticed a steady stream of islanders coming for lunch in the pleasant surroundings or picking up take-out containers; always a sure sign of a winner is where the locals like to eat!





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## Royal wedding sick bags making a splash



**Artist Lydia Leith poses with examples of her 'Royal Wedding Sick Bags.'**

NEWCASTLE, United Kingdom (AFP) – If you're finding the British royal wedding too much to stomach and are fed up of Wills and Kate being rammed down your throat, then a souvenir sick bag could be just to your taste.

Graphic artist Lydia Leith has produced the special item to help those who risk being nauseated by all the pomp and ceremony when second-in-

line to the throne Prince William marries Kate Middleton at Westminster Abbey on April 29.

In the splendidly British colours of postbox red or royal blue, the screen-printed bags bear a picture of the happy couple, topped off with a crown and the words "Throne up".

Beneath the outline image, the novelty items read "Sick

bag" and "Keep this handy on April 29th 2011".

Leith, who hopes her brainchild will be taken in the light-hearted manner she intended, had the idea of producing a Valentine's Day sick bag but then turned her attention to the wedding.

What started out with a few bags being sent to graphic design magazines ended up as a popular viral on the Internet -- and now people around the world have got the bug.

"It's gone everywhere, it's crazy," Leith told AFP.

"It started off with America, Canada and New Zealand and now there's so many different countries. It's gone worldwide very quickly. It's spread like wildfire."

The 24-year-old, based in Newcastle, northeast England, is struggling to cope with the rush of orders.

"I keep getting so many nice emails from people saying thank you for coming up with this idea, it's just what we need."

## N. Zealand to approach Oprah for help: report

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand (AFP) – Earthquake-hit New Zealand wants US talk show hosts Oprah Winfrey and David Letterman to help fundraising efforts after the disaster that devastated Christchurch, a report said.

Prime Minister John Key planned to ask the influential celebrities to promote a charity drive for victims and rebuilding efforts following the tremor that killed at least 148 people, The New Zealand Herald reported.

"We are going to speak to well-known international talk show hosts, maybe Letterman or Oprah Winfrey, those kinds of people," Key told the New Zealand Herald.

He said New Zealand hoped to raise "significant cash" in the global appeal, pointing out a similar move by Australia after wildfires claimed 173 lives in 2009 raised almost Aus\$390 million (\$396 million).

Officials estimate people from around 20 nations were among the victims of last Tues-



**It was the second major earthquake to hit Christchurch, a city of 350,000 in five months**

day's earthquake, which flattened office buildings, tore up roads and left swathes of New Zealand's second largest city in ruins.

Key said that meant the tragedy resonated around the world and New Zealand would use social media sites such as Facebook, international media and the country's diplomatic corps to tell people how they

could help.

"It's had a devastating impact on a small country like New Zealand, we think that people around the world will open their hearts and their wallets for the people of Christchurch," he told TVNZ.

The appeal website can be found at [www.christchurchearthquakeappeal.govt.nz](http://www.christchurchearthquakeappeal.govt.nz).

## British press celebrates Oscar success



**Colin Firth with his wife Livia Giuggioli, Calls have been mounting for the queen to honour the British Oscar-winning actor, a day after he was feted by Hollywood royalty for his portrayal of her stammering father in "The King's Speech"**

LONDON, England (AFP) – Calls mounted this week for the queen to honour British Oscar-winning actor Colin Firth, a day after he was feted by Hollywood royalty for his portrayal of her stammering father in "The King's Speech".

"What a knight," splashed the Mirror's editorial headline.

"Peerless Colin Firth gave a modest King's Speech as he accepted his Oscar on a great night for Britain.

"Surely it can't be long before we hear Her Majesty utter the words 'Arise Sir Colin'," the paper predicted.

The Sun led with the headline "Royal flush" on its editorial.

"F-f-flipping brilliant!" it continued. "Britain's night of Oscar triumphs was pure gold."

Kate Muir, writing in The Times, suggested the film benefited from Hollywood becoming caught in the "perfect storm of Englishness."

"The great performances from Colin Firth, Geoffrey Rush and Helena Bonham Carter were obviously central, but there was also the behind-the-scenes machine being oiled by the old Hollywood hand and distributor Harvey Weinstein," Muir wrote.

"To that, add the fact that the 6,000-strong Academy's largest voting group consists of actors, who voted for the most thespian entry. The perfect storm of Englishness and royalty was complete."

The Guardian's Peter Bradshaw celebrated the triumphant film for not adhering to the usual Tinseltown rules.

"When my mother told me my 80-something aunt had gone to the cinema, on her own, to see 'The King's Speech', I realised how successful it has been in harnessing the awesome strength of the grey pound," he said.

"People who haven't gone to the cinema in 10 or 20 years are going to see 'The King's Speech'. Older people are generally ignored or patronised in the movies: so this film's mighty triumph is a modest assertion of their existence," he added.

Meanwhile, ex-pat footballer David Beckham used his Twitter account to display his pride.

"What a great night for the Brits at the Oscars," the England midfielder tweeted. "Well done to Colin, good speech. Congratulations to everyone who worked on 'The King's Speech'. Proud night."

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# Slingshot Malinga's hat-trick destroys Kenya

NEW DELHI (AFP) - Sri Lankan slingshot Lasith Malinga became the first man to claim two World Cup hat-tricks on Tuesday with a sensational destruction of hapless Kenya, comfortably the tournament's worst team.

The 27-year-old, who took four wickets in four balls against South Africa in the 2007 edition, finished with a career best 6-38 as Kenya were bowled out for 142, struggling under a barrage of trademark Malinga toe-crushers.

Opener Upal Tharanga then hit an unbeaten 67 as Sri Lanka raced to a nine-wicket win with more than 31 overs to spare.

"Lasith as usual, the champion that he is, the ball reversing, he did a great job for us," said Sri Lanka skipper Kumar Sangakkara, whose team had lost by just 11 runs to Pakistan on Saturday.

Malinga had Tanmay Mishra lbw with the final ball of the 42nd over and then clean-bowled Peter Ongondo



**Lasith Malinga of Sri Lanka winner of the 'Man of the Match' during the Kenya v Sri Lanka Group A match** and Shem Ngoche with the first two of the 44th to complete his hat-trick.

Malinga, who had earlier dismissed opener Seren Waters and top-scorer Collins Obuya, missed the chance for another four in four when he unleashed a wide past Elijah

Otieno.

But he was not to be denied, clean-bowling the hapless number 11 with another unplayable delivery for a fourth wicket in six balls.

His hat-trick was the second of this World Cup following West Indies seamer Kemar Roach's achievement against the Netherlands on Monday.

"Every time the captain gives me the ball, he asks for a wicket," said Malinga, who missed the first two matches with a back strain.

Kenya, who went into the Group A game at the R. Premadasa stadium in Colombo with the tournament's worst record, were 8-2 at one stage before brothers Collins (52) and David Obuya (51) put on 94 for the third wicket.

But their last seven wickets went for the addition of just 22 runs to leave the home side with a straightforward target to avenge their shock 53-run defeat against Kenya in Nairobi in the 2003 World Cup.

## UEFA kicks off Euro 2012 ticket sales



WARSAW (AFP) - UEFA on Tuesday kicked off ticket sales for the 2012 European Championship, marking the moment by handing over free seats to a fan of co-hosts Poland.

At a ceremony in Warsaw the president of European football's governing body, Michel Platini, presented Pawel Michalczak, a 34-year-old forester who lives near the Polish capital, with his prize of a ticket for Poland's three first-round matches.

"Of course I can't guaran-

tee you'll get to see them in the second round too," Frenchman Platini joked, speaking in Italian as his former Juventus team-mate and ex-Poland icon Zbigniew Boniek translated.

Michalczak won a competition organised by UEFA for Polish fans.

"I couldn't believe it when I got the call. I thought someone was trying to sell me something," Michalczak said.

In a ceremony in Kiev, capital of Poland's fellow host nation, Ukraine, UEFA

executive member Frantisek Laurinec handed over four tickets for the country's June 11 opener to primary school teacher Vita Lavrenko, who was accompanied by her young son.

Other fans hoping to see the 16-nation championships will also need luck.

More than 550,000 tickets are available for the general public but demand traditionally far outstrips supply -- 10.4 million people applied for 300,000 tickets at Euro 2008.


From Tuesday until the end of this month, would-be buyers must sign up at a ticket portal on UEFA's website, uefa.com.

UEFA underlines that the site is the only authorised channel, and warns that other purported sources could be fronts for rip-off merchants.

"We will be vigilant and will take all necessary measures against fraud," Pedro Correia, head of UEFA's ticket operations, said in Kiev.

In April, UEFA will decide by lottery who gets to purchase a ticket.

On Tuesday, 591,000 people had already applied, 70 percent from Poland and Ukraine, and the rest from 159 other countries, UEFA said.



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## Mayweather eyes South Africa fight: report



LAS VEGA (AFP) - Unbeaten US boxer Floyd Mayweather, who is facing felony charges that could bring in 34 years behind bars, is talking about staging a fight in South Africa in July, his uncle Jeff says.

Jeff Mayweather, a former fighter himself, told the website www.fighthype.com his nephew was in talks with the family of Nelson Mandela about a possible fight around the time of Mandela's 93rd birthday on July 18.

Having Floyd Mayweather, 41-0 with 25 knockouts, fight anywhere has become a rare event. His last bout was 10 months ago when he won a unanimous decision over Shane Mosley, who will fight Filipino star Manny Pacquiao on May 7.

Floyd Mayweather's only other fight since December of 2007 was a 2009 decision over Juan Manuel Marquez that ended an 18-month hiatus from the ring.

Fight fans have dreamed of a Pacquiao-Mayweather showdown, although it is unlikely "Pretty Boy Floyd" would take on such a fight in South Africa after a layoff and that Pacquiao would return to the ring so soon to meet Mayweather.

A fight in South Africa in

July could set the stage for a possible November or December fight against Pacquiao.

"I know he is talking to Nelson Mandela's daughter," Jeff Mayweather said. "Of course, in the midst of that, they are also trying to make the fight between Floyd and Manny."

Mayweather, who turned 34 last Thursday, also faces two court fights in Las Vegas, the most serious of which is a domestic violence case.

Mayweather faces an evidence hearing next week on charges that he struck and threatened former girlfriend Josie Harris, stole her telephone and threatened two of their children in an incident last September.

In an unrelated case, Mayweather faces charges of poking a security guard in the face during a scuffle in November over parking tickets issued to vehicles around Mayweather's home in a private neighborhood. That trial will not start until April 25 at the earliest.

Pacquiao, 52-3 with two draws and 38 knockouts, will try and make Mosley, 46-6 with one draw and 39 knockouts, his 14th victim in a row over a six-year unbeaten run.



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## Talks resume as deadline looms

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Talks between National Football League owners and players union leaders resumed Tuesday with a Thursday deadline looming for the expiration of their current collective bargaining agreement.

Billionaire owners and multi-millionaire players have been unable to agree on how to divide \$9 billion in annual revenues, setting the stage for a shutdown of America's most popular sport.

After a four-day break following seven days in a row of talks, both sides returned to

the negotiating table along with a non-binding federal mediator who characterized talks last week as having made slight progress but with strong differences remaining over major issues.

Owners want to boost the regular season from 16 to 18 games a team, which would boost income for both sides but add wear and tear for players already concerned about career longevity and safety issues in the sport.

Players seek greater benefits for players after their careers while owners want a rookie wage scale.

NFL Players Association leaders have expressed concern the NFL clubs could impose a lockout as early as Friday.

But the players union could also decide to decertify itself as the bargaining unit for players, which would halt talks and send players to court to try and secure a deal, setting the stage for a protracted legal fight with the NFL before the issues are settled.

The NFL has not had a labor shutdown since 1987 when replacement players crossed picket lines to play for three games.

## Heat drop Arroyo, set to sign Bibby

MIAMI (AFP) - Mike Bibby appears set to join the Miami Heat, who made room for signing the 13-year NBA veteran point guard by cutting loose Carlos Arroyo on Tuesday, according to Heat players.

Bibby was traded from the Atlanta Hawks to Washington last week at the NBA trade deadline and the Wizards bought out Bibby's contract on Monday, leaving him free to sign with any club once he clears waivers on Wednesday.

"If Mike is coming here soon, which we all believe, he's going to help us out

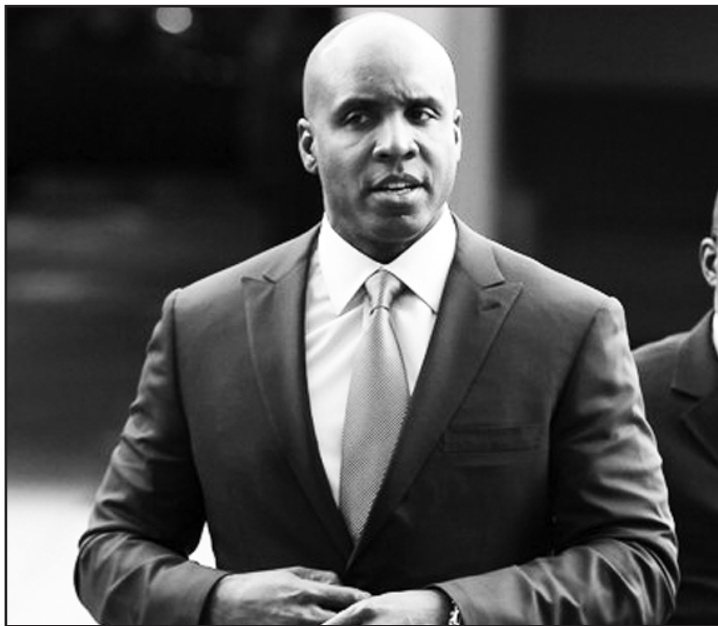
tremendously," said two-time reigning NBA Most Valuable Player LeBron James.

Arroyo was not at a Heat team practice on Tuesday. After starting 42 games for Miami this season, he played only 27 minutes last month.

Bibby could make his debut in a Miami uniform as soon as Thursday when the Heat face Orlando.

At 43-17, the Heat rank second in the Eastern Conference, one game behind Boston and one game ahead of Chicago in a fight for playoff seeding and home-court advantage in the playoffs.

## Bonds pleads not guilty once again



**Former Major League Baseball player Barry Bonds arrives for an arraignment hearing**

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) - US home run king Barry Bonds pleaded not guilty on Tuesday to refile charges that he lied under oath when denying that he knowingly took performance-enhancing drugs.

Bonds faces four counts of perjury and another of obstructing justice in a trial scheduled to begin on March 21.

Prosecutors were forced to re-file their indictment for a

second time since originally filing charges against the former San Francisco Giants slugger in November of 2007.

Six of 11 charges that had been filed against Bonds were dropped after US District Court Judge Susan Illston refused to allow evidence gathered linking Bonds to failed dope tests.

As a result of the re-written charges, Bonds was forced to enter a plea for a

fourth time overall and he continued to maintain his innocence.

The charges stem from testimony by Bonds to a 2003 grand jury investigating the BALCO steroid scandal when Bonds said he never knowingly took steroids.

Greg Anderson, who had been the personal trainer for Bonds, was among those convicted in the BALCO scandal that rocked athletics and Major League Baseball.

A later hearing was expected to feature Anderson, who spent more than a year in prison for previously refusing to testify to a grand jury investigating Bonds.

Anderson could be sent to jail on contempt of court charges again for refusing to testify against Bonds in the upcoming trial.

Bonds set the all-time Major League Baseball homer record of 762 in 2007, breaking Hank Aaron's prior mark of 755 but booed by fans outside San Francisco who considered him a dope cheat after reports of his BALCO scandal links.

Bonds hit a one-season major league record of 73 homers in 2001.



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## Sports in danger from \$140 bln illegal betting - Rogge

LAUSANNE (AFP) - Olympic chief Jacques Rogge warned Tuesday that sports as a whole was in danger from an estimated 140 billion dollars a year in illegal betting worldwide.

His warning came after the International Olympic Committee (IOC), some sports officials, friendly governments, Interpol and representatives of betting operators held a first meeting to find joint ways to tackle the problem.

"I think sports is in danger, it's not about the Olympic Games, it's about sports as a whole," Rogge said after the meeting agreed to set in motion a task force.

Rogge has repeatedly said he fears that illegal and irregular betting threatens the credibility of popular spectator sports through match-fixing.

"The turnover invested in illegal betting is 140 billion US dollars, that's a huge amount of money," he said, citing figures given during the meeting.

"What we have from Interpol is definitely that illegal betting is on the rise, that we have to absolutely fight that, there is a sense of urgency," the president of the International Olympic Committee insisted.

"It's not about the Olympic Games, it's about sports in general, what we heard this morning is a clear signal."

Interpol Secretary General Ronald Noble told the meeting that one joint, four week police swoop in China, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam in 2007

found 700 million dollars in football bets on the table and led to nearly 400 arrests.

By 2008 Indonesia joined the operation, 1,300 arrests were made and 1.4 billion dollars in bets were blocked, coinciding with the Euro 2008. During last year's World Cup 155 million dollars in illegal bets were prevented in an unspecified four-nation operation.

Football betting scams reach as deep as fourth division football, with the help of organised crime, fuelled by expanding broadband internet, according to Rogge.

"There have been documented cases of cheating and match fixing in Sumo wrestling in Japan, there have been very recently cases very visible in cricket, there have been cases in team sports," he added.


A spot-fixing scandal left three Pakistan cricketers banned and facing criminal charges last month, while persistent corruption fears are troubling tennis after several players were contacted by investigators amid rumours of suspicious betting patterns.

European football governing body UEFA and world body FIFA have set up their own betting monitoring units in recent years.

British Sports Minister Hugh Robertson, Australian counterpart Mark Arbib, and French and Swiss ministers took part in the meeting in Geneva.

Those countries already have legislated on betting and are regarded as a core that could draw in more countries to provide police investigations and law enforcement.

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## Kings deadline extended over possible move

NEW YORK (AFP) - NBA officials extended the deadline for the Sacramento Kings to file an application for relocation on Tuesday, allowing the Maloof family until April 18 to make moves for a possible shift to Anaheim.

The NBA deadline to apply for relocation would

have been March 1, but the move by the NBA Board of Governors allows for the team to complete the regular season before making any move regarding relocation.

The Maloof family, which owns the Kings, has pushed for a new arena in the California capital and is threatening to move the team to

Anaheim, which would give the Los Angeles area three clubs.

Pushing back the deadline will allow the issue to be discussed at an NBA board of governors meeting on April 14-15 between the end of the season and the start of the playoffs, which the Kings, 15-43, are unlikely to reach.



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